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Foreign Labor Trends

Nicaragua

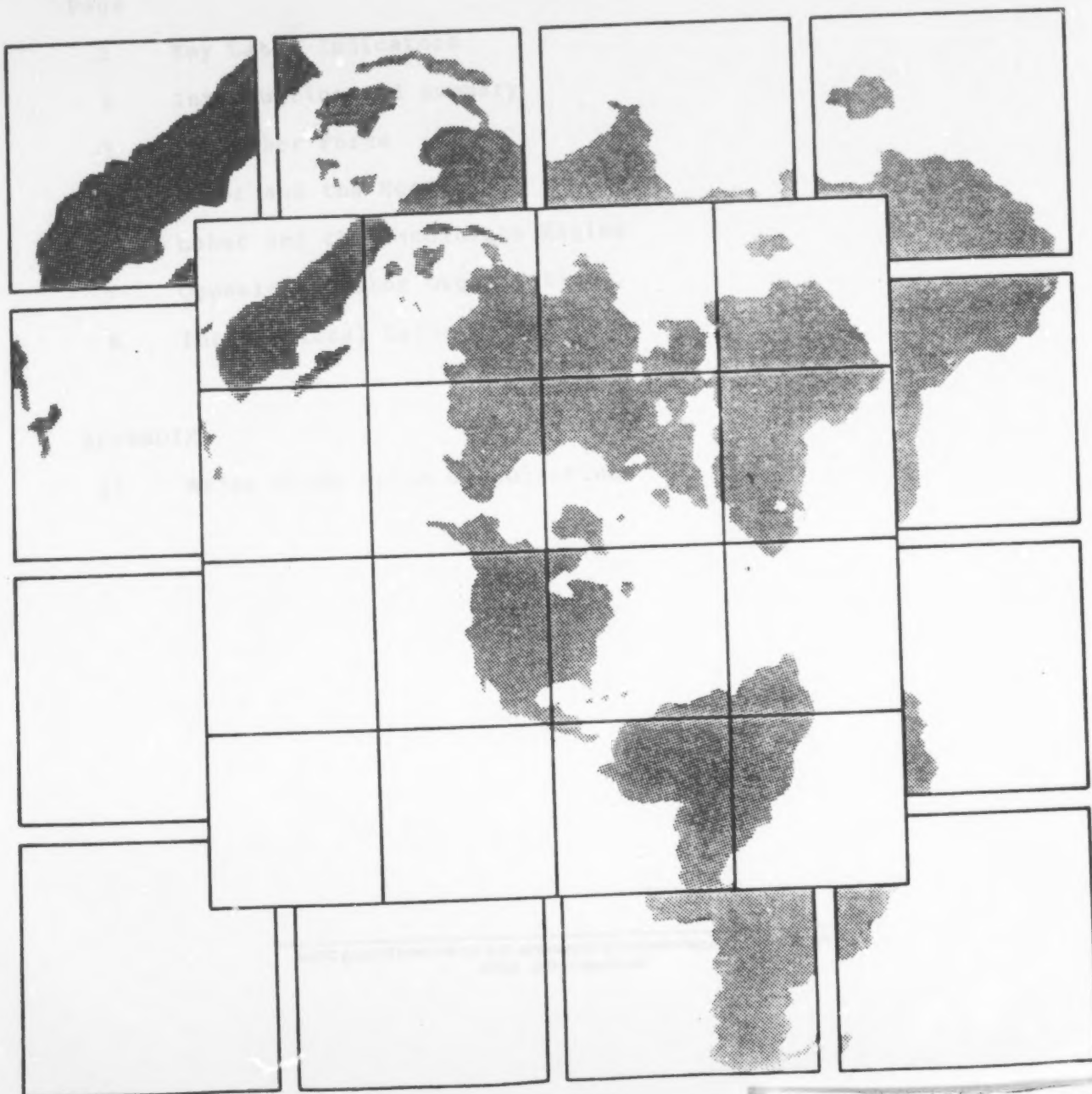


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FOREIGN LABOR TRENDS REPORT

NICARAGUA

1988-89

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KEY LABOR INDICATORS

(THE TABLES BELOW CONTAIN ONLY LIMITED DATA IN MANY OF THE CATEGORIES. THIS IS DUE LARGELY TO THE GOVERNMENT'S AVERSION TO PUBLISHING STATISTICS THAT WOULD REFLECT NEGATIVELY ON ITS ECONOMIC POLICIES.)

	1986	1987	PCT. CHANGE 1986-87
1. PER CAPITA GDP, CONSTANT. 1980 PRICES (US\$):	666	593	-6.0
2. PER CAPITA GDP, CONSTANT 1958 PRICES (US\$):	148	139	-6.1
3. TOTAL POPULATION (THOUSANDS):	3,384	3,501	3.4
4. POPULATION GROWTH RATE IN URBAN AREAS (PERCENT):	4.9	-	
5. BIRTH RATE PER 1000 POPULATION:	41.8	-	
6. IN-MIGRATION (THOUSANDS): (1985)	198.8	-	
7. OUT-MIGRATION (THOUSANDS): (1985)	218.1	-	
-TO U. S. (IMMIGRANT VISAS):	766	1,268	66
8. LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH :(1985)	59.8	-	
-MALE:	58.7	-	
-FEMALE:	61.0	-	
9. ADULT LITERACY RATE (PCT.):	72.3	-	
10. TOTAL LABOR FORCE (THOUSANDS):	1,086	1,126	3.7
11. TOTAL EMPLOYMENT:	846	843.5	(0.3)
-AGRICULTURE:	367	365.2	(0.5)
-OTHER:	479	478.3	(0.1)
12. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (PCT.):	22.1	25.1	13.6
13. WORK-RELATED ACCIDENTS:	6,500	-	
14. WEEKLY MINIMUM WAGE RATES (US\$ AT AVERAGE PARALLEL EXCHANGE RATE):	1.74	2.06	18.4
15. AVG. WEEKLY EARNINGS (US\$ AT AVG. PARALLEL EXCHANGE RATE)(1985)	-	-	
-AGRICULTURE:	3.97	-	
-INDUSTRY:	3.81	-	
-CONSTRUCTION:	4.13	-	
-SERVICES:	4.47	-	
16. OFFICIAL WORK WEEK (HOURS):	44	44	0
18. UNIONIZATION (PCT. WORKFORCE) (13.8: 1985)	23.2	-	
19. AVG. PERSONAL ANNUAL INCOME, CURRENT PRICES (US\$): (1985)	198.39	-	
28. CHANGE IN CONSUMER PRICES (PCT):	747	1,800	141

29. TRADE WITH U.S. (US\$ MILLIONS)

-EXPORTS: (1985/1987)	20	0	-100
-IMPORTS: (1985/1987)	67	0	-100

SOURCES: OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA FIGURES AS REPORTED BY NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS AND CENSUS (INEC), MINISTRY OF LABOR (MITRAB), ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA (ECLA), INTERAMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB), AND NICARAGUAN PRIVATE SECTOR INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INVESTIGATIONS (INIESEP).

1	PER CAPITA GNP, CONSTANT 1980 PRICE (US\$)	888	888	-0.0
2	PER CAPITA GNP, CURRENT PRICE (US\$)	128	128	-0.0
3	TOTAL POPULATION (THOUSANDS)	2,388	2,388	-0.0
4	POPULATION GROWTH RATE IN 1987 (PERCENT)	1.8	1.8	-0.0
5	BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION	41.8	41.8	-0.0
6	IN-MIGRATION (THOUSANDS)	128.8	128.8	-0.0
7	OUT-MIGRATION (THOUSANDS)	218.8	218.8	-0.0
8	-TO U.S. (THOUSANDS)	128.8	128.8	-0.0
9	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (YEARS)	68.8	68.8	-0.0
10	ADULT LITERACY RATE (PERCENT)	73.8	73.8	-0.0
11	TOTAL LABOR FORCE (THOUSANDS)	1,088	1,088	-0.0
12	TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT	288	288	-0.0
13	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (PERCENT)	26.5	26.5	-0.0
14	WAGE RELATIONSHIP (PERCENT)	1.8	1.8	-0.0
15	WEEKLY MINIMUM WAGE RATE (US\$)	1.8	1.8	-0.0
16	WEEKLY PARALLEL EXCHANGE RATE (US\$)	1.8	1.8	-0.0
17	WEEKLY PARALLEL EXCHANGE RATE (US\$)	1.8	1.8	-0.0
18	OFFICIAL WAGE RATE (US\$)	1.8	1.8	-0.0
19	UNEMPLOYMENT (PERCENT)	1.8	1.8	-0.0
20	AVG. PERMANENT ANNUAL INCOME	1.8	1.8	-0.0
21	CURRENT PRICE (US\$)	1.8	1.8	-0.0
22	CHANGE IN CURRENT PRICE (PERCENT)	1.8	1.8	-0.0

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

Almost 10 years after the revolution that brought the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) to power, the Nicaraguan working class has been badly battered by the twin scourges of Sandinista repression and prolonged economic depression. Despite the ostensible Sandinista commitment to its "historical proletarian project," the plight of Nicaraguan workers has reached postwar lows in terms of wages, unemployment, and overall purchasing power. Moreover, the economy is close to complete collapse due to hyperinflation, declining export earnings, and widespread shortages of basic materials required for production. The fundamental structure of the economy has shifted from the fairly modernized agro-industry geared to exports that had developed in the 1960s and 1970s toward an essentially subsistence economy. This shift has entailed severe economic hardships for all sectors, prompting a mass exodus of both professionals and unskilled laborers. While workers tied to the Sandinista regime continue to enjoy a privileged status, the general economic decline has begun to erode the standard of living for even this sector. While the independent labor unions struggle to survive these conditions, the Sandinista-controlled unions serve as instruments to stifle worker discontent.

THE LABOR FORCE

The Nicaraguan work force in 1987 stood at 1.1 million people, of which some 843,500 were employed. More than half of the labor force is involved in the growing informal sector. Agriculture constitutes the most important sector of the formal economy, with 32.4 percent of the work force directly employed in agriculture. In 1987, agriculture accounted for 83.1 percent of all export earnings, generating about 23.5 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

The service sector, including government workers, accounted for 45.5 percent of the GDP and 32.7 percent of the work force. The number of people engaged in informal commerce continues to grow due to the steady decline in purchasing power in the formal sector. Thus, in 1987 about 8.4 percent of the work force was involved in the formal commerce sector, representing 16.5 percent of GDP. Manufacturing accounted for 27.2 percent of GDP in 1987, with about 8 percent of the work force employed in this sector. The electricity, water, transport, and communications' sectors account for 7.1 percent of GDP, and employ 2.6 percent of the work force. The construction sector generates about 3.3 percent of GDP, and represents 1.5 percent of the work force.

The Sandinistas' military (active duty and reserve) and security forces represent some 120,000 men (about 10.6 percent of the total labor force). Moreover, a large (indeterminate) number of males are in hiding from military recruitment and are therefore excluded from the productive sectors. This large security establishment is maintained in order to ensure FSLN dominance and to further Sandinista ideological objectives.

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

The Nicaraguan economy registered a negative growth rate of 3.0 percent in 1987, marking the fourth consecutive year that GDP declined. This trend continued in 1988, and will likely accelerate in 1989. The official unemployment rate rose to 25.1 percent in 1987, although this figure does not accurately reflect the true extent of unemployment and underemployment in Nicaragua. Also, worker productivity continues to decline as a result of Sandinista political and economic policies.

The decline of agricultural export crops continues apace due to a multitude of government disincentives, such as a prejudicial price/cost structure, unrealistic credit policies, the threat of confiscation, and a Sandinista policy preference that favors less efficient small landholders and state cooperatives that produce for subsistence. This trend has accelerated the country's economic decline, depriving the productive sectors of desperately needed hard currency to purchase equipment, spare parts, and other basic inputs. Export earnings have plummeted from US\$428.8 million in 1983 to US\$228.9 million in 1988. At the same time, imports in 1988 were estimated at US\$883.5 million (not including military-related items). As the overall level of western aid has declined in recent years, Soviet bloc donations of oil, food, and other products have become increasingly important in keeping the Nicaraguan economy afloat.

The government practice of covering its fiscal deficit (estimated at about 20 percent of GDP in 1988) by printing unbacked currency is a principal cause of hyperinflation in Nicaragua, which in 1988 exceeded 20,000 percent. The Government implemented a series of economic reforms in 1988 designed to break this inflationary spiral; however, these reforms merely exacerbated the situation. Thus, in January 1989 the Government announced a new austerity program aimed at reducing the large federal deficit. As many as 35,000 government employees reportedly will be laid off over the coming months. At the same time, the government tightened up its credit policies as part of an overall attempt to control

the money supply. These measures have induced a deepening recession, and it is not yet clear whether the inflationary spiral has been broken.

Although all sectors have suffered from the effects of hyperinflation and Government efforts to bring it under control, the country's salaried workers have felt the heaviest impact. The salaries of all professionals continue to lag far behind the rate of inflation. This steady erosion of purchasing power has prompted a wholesale "brain drain" of the country's professionals. The Government has estimated that about 9,000 highly skilled professionals have left Nicaragua since the revolution, and the flight has accelerated in recent months. Overall, about 300,000 people have fled Nicaragua in the last 10 years. This represents one tenth of the country's population and a sizable portion of the work force.

The majority of Nicaraguan workers are not able to maintain even a subsistence diet for their families. Increasingly, workers and their dependents are being forced into the growing informal sector of the economy in order to eke out a living. This trend has produced serious social dislocations as survival becomes a major struggle for a large segment of the population.

LABOR AND THE SANDINISTA REGIME

Despite a professed commitment to the revolution's "historical proletarian program," the Sandinistas view labor unions in largely Leninist terms--that is, as a means of controlling and organizing the masses in support of the regime's program. Thus, labor unions are simply a variant of other Sandinista mass organizations, such as youth groups, women's associations, and Sandinista defense committees. The purpose of Sandinista-controlled unions is to extract greater sacrifices from the workers in support of the revolution, rather than to represent workers' interests in negotiations with the state in its role as an employer.

With the steady deterioration of the economy, the Government has relied increasingly on Sandinista-controlled unions to impose discipline on workers whose standard of living has plummeted. The Sandinista unions have been used to extract major concessions from the workers and to stifle labor discontent. This symbiotic relationship between the Government, the FSLN party, and Sandinista unions has restricted severely the space allowed for free expression of labor demands.

In return for their loyalty, government workers receive special benefits, such as the "AFA package" which is a supplemental payment-in-kind that includes the basic elements of the Nicaraguan diet. Government employees and Sandinista party members at higher levels receive additional compensations, such as being allowed to obtain dollars at subsidized exchange rates. These dollars can then be used in state-owned dollar stores.

The Sandinista Workers' Central (CST) was created after the 1979 revolution as part of a series of Sandinista mass organizations. This union grew rapidly as it absorbed the locals of the old Somoza-controlled General Confederation of Labor (CGT). At the same time, the government applied intense pressure on other independent labor confederations to merge with the Sandinista central. Some of the current independent labor unions initially affiliated themselves with the Sandinista central and later broke away; other independent unions resisted Sandinista co-optation from the outset.

The CST has been a pliant instrument of Sandinista control, endorsing the government position on political as well as economic matters. The CST is a particularly useful means of Sandinista control of key economic sectors and strategic installations such as port facilities. Under the leadership of Lucio Jimenez since 1983, the CST has maintained strict discipline and has moved quickly to preempt any move by locals to change their affiliation to an independent union.

The other major Sandinista-controlled labor organization, the Association of Rural Workers (ATC), was formed by the FSLN in March 1978 as part of the revolutionary struggle against Somoza. Under the leadership of Edgardo Garcia, the ATC has a reputation for fighting harder than the CST to defend the economic interests of its rank and file. Nevertheless, Nicaragua's large population of rural wage laborers remains the poorest segment of the population. For this reason, two independent unions have made some progress in organizing this sector--the Autonomous Nicaraguan Workers' Central (CTN-A), and the Confederation of Labor Unification (CUS). However, these unions often face government-backed challenges by both the ATC and the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG), which organizes peasant small landholders and cooperative members on behalf of the Sandinista party.

The FSLN also controls organizations of government health workers (FETSALUD), teachers (ANDEN), white-collar employees (UNE), journalists (UPN), and professionals (CONAPRO "heroes and martyrs"). Discontent within these organizations has increased as the fixed salaries of these professionals have

steadily eroded due to inflation. Nevertheless, the Sandinista party has been able to maintain control over the organizations, prompting many professionals simply to flee the country in desperation.

OPPOSITION LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

In response to Sandinista repression, four out of Nicaragua's five principal opposition labor unions forged an alliance in November 1987. This labor umbrella organization, the Permanent Congress of Workers (CPT), includes the following unions: the Autonomous Nicaraguan Workers' Central (CTN-A); the Confederation of Labor Unification (CUS); the Independent General Confederation of Workers (CGT-I); and the Labor Action and Unity Central (CAUS). The CTN-A is affiliated with the left-of-center Popular Social Christian Party (PPSC); the CUS has ties with the Social Democratic Party (PSD); the CGT-I is connected with the Nicaraguan Socialist Party (PSN); and the CAUS is controlled by the Communist Party of Nicaragua (PCdEN). The latter two unions (and their affiliated parties) are anti-Sandinista organizations with a pro-Moscow orientation.

Despite their ideological diversity, the CPT unions are united on these key demands: elimination of preferential treatment of Sandinista unions, revision of the labor code, and full trade union freedoms, including the right to strike, bargain collectively, and organize without Sandinista interference.

Theoretically, the Nicaraguan Constitution (Article 87) guarantees workers the right to organize and elect their own representatives. In practice, however, the Government and the FSLN party apparatus often employ coercion, economic pressure, or force to impede workers' rights. For example, in May 1988 the CAUS defeated a Sandinista union in elections for labor representatives at the Tona Brewery in Managua. However, the defeated Sandinista Workers' Central (CST) mounted a campaign--supported by other FSLN mass organizations--to oust the freely elected CAUS leaders. This campaign culminated on August 17, when some 300 "turbas" (Sandinista-controlled thugs) and a reserve military unit occupied the brewery. After firing 47 CAUS union members at Tona, a new labor directorate was "elected" composed of mostly demobilized Sandinista soldiers.

According to independent labor leaders, the Ministry of Labor and Sandinista police were involved in the CST's ouster of the CAUS union representatives. This incident is a textbook example of the problems facing independent unions when they attempt to challenge a Sandinista-controlled union that is backed by the government and FSLN mass organizations.

Article 83 of the Nicaraguan Constitution recognizes the right to strike. However, in February 1988 the government used the Somoza-era labor code to declare a strike of automobile and construction workers illegal. The striking workers were dismissed and replaced by hundreds of prisoners. Likewise, in April about 60 workers initiated a hunger strike to press their demands on the Government. In response, the Government used special units of the Ministry of Interior to intimidate the hunger strikers and their supporters. The strike ended on May 15 after the Government cut off water and electricity to the union headquarters. Also, 28 supporters of the hunger strikers were arrested. In November 1988, the Minister of Agriculture - Livestock Development, Jaime Wheelock, warned sugar workers that if they attempted to strike, the Government would "cut off their hands."

Articles 82 through 88 of the Nicaraguan Constitution contain various labor rights, including the right to negotiate individual or collective bargaining agreements. However, while the Government does not prohibit this practice, it does not participate in collective bargaining with independent labor unions. Instead, the Government directs Sandinista-controlled unions to accept government proposals.

Restrictions on opposition union organizing activity are mostly extra-official and indirect. The two independent leftist unions--the CAUS and the CGT-I--have been subjected to particularly heavy Sandinista pressure for refusing to be co-opted by the regime. Likewise, the CUS, a CPT union which is affiliated with the AFL-CIO, and the Nicaraguan Workers' Central (CTN), which is a member of the Democratic Coordinator Alliance, have suffered Sandinista harassment and intimidation in the efforts to organize unions. This repression has included personal threats against union organizers, occupation of union headquarters, and nullification of elections in the workplace.

INTERNATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS

In line with the FSLN strategy of mobilizing international support for its revolutionary program, the Sandinista labor organizations maintain a high level of contact with other international labor organizations. The CST is affiliated with the Soviet-controlled World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU). The other major FSLN labor central, the Rural Workers' Association (ATC), is not formally a member of any international organization; however, the ATC has observer status in the Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers (ORIT). Likewise, the ATC maintains informal "solidarity" ties with like-minded organizations in other revolutionary countries.

Independent trade unions are permitted a measure of freedom to maintain international contacts, although subject to government surveillance and harassment. The CUS maintains extensive international relations through its affiliations with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), while the CTN maintains such contacts through the Christian Democratic World Confederation of Labor (WCL). The CGT-I is a member of the WFTU, but almost all material support from the Prague-based organization is channeled to the Sandinista-controlled CST.

The Government appoints Sandinista organizations to represent Nicaraguan workers' and employers' associations in the International Labor Organization (ILO). This practice has prompted frequent credentials challenges in that organization. Likewise, a number of complaints alleging violations of ILO conventions on freedom of association, and the right to organize and bargain collectively have been filed against the Government by ICFTU, WCL, the Latin American Central of Workers (CLAT), and the International Organization of Employers (IOE). As of November 1988, 23 separate cases of trade union and employer rights infringements had been filed against the Sandinista government with the Governing Body's Committee on Freedom of Association (CFA). The allegations in these cases range from murder, detention or harassment of trade unionists and employers to restrictions on freedom of movement and expression to confiscation of property. Most have been filed by labor organizations such as the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and World Confederation of Labor (WCL), and others by the International Organization of Employers (IOE).

At the same time, the ILO Committee of Experts (COE) has been regularly pointing out serious problems with Nicaragua's labor legislation, especially restrictions on the right to strike and collective bargaining. The Conference Committee on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CACR) has held several discussions on both the legal situation and specific instances of worker and employer rights abuses in Nicaragua.

During the previous year, several employers' delegates to the 73rd Session of the International Labor conference lodged a complaint under Article 26 of the Constitution of the ILO, charging that the Nicaraguan Government had violated Conventions 87 and 98 on freedom of association as well Convention 144 requiring tripartite consultations on ILO matters--all of which had been freely ratified by Nicaragua.

The delegates requested that the Governing Body establish a commission of inquiry to examine and report on the complaint. An ILO study mission was sent to Nicaragua in September 1988 to investigate these allegations. Based on the results of this fact-finding mission, the Committee on Freedom of Association concluded in November that the situation in Nicaragua was so serious as to warrant a commission of inquiry unless the Government demonstrated "a change of attitude" and "a clear desire to make progress" in these areas.

APPENDIX

Major Trade Union Organizations

Democratic Orientation

1. Confederacion de Unificacion Sindical (CUS) - Confederation of Labor Unification

Address: Ciudad Jardin q-3, Managua

Telephone: 42039

Chief Officer: Alvin Guthrie, Secretary General

Membership: 35,000 members.

Description: Democratic labor movement with regional organizations in Managua, Chinandega, Leon, Carazo, Nueva Segovia and Bluefields. Key unions include auto mechanics (Simaresisa) and restaurant workers (FETRAHOMESIMA) in Managua, Chinandega farm workers (FETRACAMCHI), Carazo farm workers (FETRACAMCA), and miskito workers in Managua (SITRAMIS). CUS also has influence among Leon market vendors, Corinto port workers and at the San Antonio sugar mill.

Affiliations: Social Democratic Party (PSD), Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinator (CDN), Permanent Congress of Workers (CPT), Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers (ORIT), International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), and American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD).

2. Central de Trabajadores de Nicaragua (CTN) - Nicaraguan Workers' Central

Address: de las Delicias del Volga, 1/2 C. Arriba, Managua

Telephone: 22917

Chief Officer: Carlos Huembes, Secretary General

Membership: 35,000 members.

Description: Christian Democratic Movement founded in 1962. Largest independent union before losing FETSALUD to the Sandinistas in 1980 and splitting with CTN-A in 1982. Active in Managua, Chinandega, Leon, Masaya, and Granada, mostly among employees of private farms and factories. Key unions include bus drivers (SIMOTUR), cooking oil factory workers (SITRIAM), banana workers (STB), gasoline station attendants (SITEGMA), and "La Prensa" newspaper employees (STLP).

Affiliations: Social Christian Party (PSC), Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinator (CDN), Latin American Workers' Central (CLAT), and World Confederation of Labor (WCL).

3. Central de Trabajadores de Nicaragua (Autonoma) (CTN-A) - Autonomous Nicaraguan Workers' Central

Address: de la Iglesia Santa Ana, 1-1/2 C. Abajo, Managua

Telephone: 25981

Chief Officer: Antonio Jarquin, Secretary General

Membership: 18,000 members.

Description: Product of 1982 split in the CTN. Strongly committed to social christian communitarianism and militantly anti-Sandinista. Organized among Managua urban workers and peasants in Nueva Guinea, Nueva Segovia, and Chinandega. Key unions include rural transport workers (SITRARU) and Union of Campesino Workers of Nueva Guinea (nearly half of CTN-A membership).

Affiliations: Popular Social Christian Party (PPSC) and Permanent Congress of Workers (CPT).

Non-Sandinista Marxist Orientation

1. Confederacion General de los Trabajadores (independiente) (CGT-I) - Independent General Confederation of Labor

Address: KM. 4, Carretera a Masaya, Managua

Telephone: 70615 - 75570

Chief Officer: Carlos Salgado, Secretary General

Membership: 31,000 members.

Description: Marxist trade union movement founded in 1963 by Moscow-line Socialists. Opposed to Sandinista wage controls. Based on the Managua Construction Workers Union (SCAAS). Also active among construction workers, artisans, and farm workers in Granada, Masaya, Carazo, Rivas, and Leon.

Affiliations: Nicaraguan Socialist Party (PSN), Permanent Congress of Workers (CPT), and World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU).

2. Central de Accion y Unidad Sindical (CAUS) - Labor Action and Unity Central

Address: de los Semaforos del Colonial 1 C. Abajo, 1 C. al Lago, Managua

Telephone: 42587

Chief Officer: Roberto Moreno, Secretary General

Membership: 2,000 members.

Description: Marxist movement critical of Sandinista labor policies. Founded after the 1967 schism in the Socialist Party. Traditionally strong in the Managua textile industry.

Affiliations: Communist Party of Nicaragua (PCdeN) and Permanent Congress of Workers (CPT).

3. Frente Obrero (FO) - Workers Front

Address: del Puente "el Paraisito" 20 vrs. Arriba, Managua

Telephone: 23787

Chief Officer: Fernando Malespin, Secretary General

Membership: small

Description: Radical leftist group with Maoist and anarchist elements that split with the FSLN in the early 1970's. Agitates against Sandinista labor policies and demands complete abolition of private property.

Affiliations: Popular Action Movement--Marxist-Leninist (MAP-ML). Supports platform of the CPT.

Sandinista orientation

1. Coordinadora Sindical de Nicaragua (CSN) - Labor Coordinator of Nicaragua

Membership: Over 300,000 claimed in 1987.

Description: Umbrella organization for FSLN-controlled labor organizations. Formerly included the CGT-I, CAUS, and FO non-Sandinista Marxist labor groups.

Affiliations: Sandinista mass organization. Member of CSN and World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU).

Member labor groups: CST, ATC, FETSALUD, ANDEN, UPN, and UNE.

2. Central Sandinista de los trabajadores (CST) - Sandinista Workers Central

Address: Casa de la CST, Managua

Telephones: 24681 (regional) - 24121 (national)

Chief Officer: Lucio Jimenez, Secretary General

Membership: 150,000 claimed in 1987.

Description: Sandinista urban and agro-industrial labor confederation. Created in 1979 from pre-revolution FSLN labor groups and remnants of the Somoza-controlled General Confederation of Labor (CGT). Strong in state enterprises, urban industry, and the sugar mills.

Affiliations: Sandinista mass organization. Member of CSN and World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU).

3. Asociacion de Trabajadores del Campo (ATC) - Farm Workers Association

Address: de la Casa Morales, 7 C. al Sur, 1 C. Arriba, Managua

Telephone: 23338 - 22779 - 26976

Chief Officer: Edgardo Garcia, Secretary General

Membership: 70,000 claimed in 1987.

Description: Sandinista union of salaried farm workers. Created in 1978 by the FSLN proletarian tendency and church activists. Leading organization representing workers on public and private farms in the coffee, cotton, beef, and rice sectors.

Affiliations: Sandinista mass organization. Member of CSN. Observer status at ORIT.

4. Federacion de Trabajadores de la Salud (FETSALUD) - Health Workers' Federation

Address: Shell Ciudad Jardin, 1/2 C. Arriba, Managua

Telephone: 26482

Chief Officer: Gustavo Porras, Secretary General

Membership: 15,000 members.

Description: Government-controlled union of workers in the public health care industry.

Affiliation: Pro-Sandinista. Member of CSN.

5. Union Nacional de Empleados (UNE) - National Union of Employees

Address: Casa de la CST, Managua

Telephone: 22720 - 27082

Chief Officer: Jose Angel Bermudez, Secretary General

Membership: Unknown

Description: Government white collar employees union.

Affiliations: Pro-Sandinista. Member of CSN.

6. Asociacion Nacional de Educadores de Nicaragua (ANDEN) - National Association of Educators of Nicaragua

Address: Contiguo al Parque de las Madres, Managua

Telephones: 661471 - 662394 - 664733

Chief Officer: Guillermo Martinez, President

Membership: 22,500 claimed in 1988. This union controls 75 percent of all school teachers.

Description: Government-controlled union of public school teachers.

Affiliations: Pro-Sandinista. Member of CSN.

7. Union de Periodistas de Nicaragua (UPN) - Union of Journalists of Nicaragua

Address: del Hospital Velez Paiz, 4 C. Arriba, Managua

Telephone: 51642

Chief Officer: Lily Soto, Secretary General

Membership: 900 claimed in 1988.

Description: Union of employees of Sandinista-controlled media outlets.

Affiliations: Pro-Sandinista. Member of CSN.

8. Confederacion de Asociaciones de Profesionales "Heroes y Martires" (CONAPRO "Heroes y Martires") - Heroes and Martyrs Confederation of Professional Associations

Address: de la Casa Morales 1 C. Abajo, 3-1/2 C. al Sur, Managua

Telephone: 23765

Chief Officer: Freddy Cruz, President

Membership: 13,000 claimed in 1987.

Description: Association of public sector professionals and technical specialists. Created as a parallel organization to the private sector CONAPRO.

Affiliation: Pro-Sandinista.

9. Union Nacional de Agricultores y Ganaderos (UNAG) - National Union of Farmers and Ranchers

Address: del Banco Inmobiliario las Palmas, 1 C. al Lago, 1/2 C. Abajo, Managua

Telephones: 660632 - 664110 - 661482

Chief Officer: Daniel Nunez, President

Membership: 138,400 claimed in 1988.

Description: Union of Sandinista cooperative members and small land owners benefiting from the agrarian reform program. Also attempts to co-opt larger private sector producers away from the Nicaraguan Union of Agricultural and Livestock Producers (UPANIC).

Affiliation: Pro-Sandinista.

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